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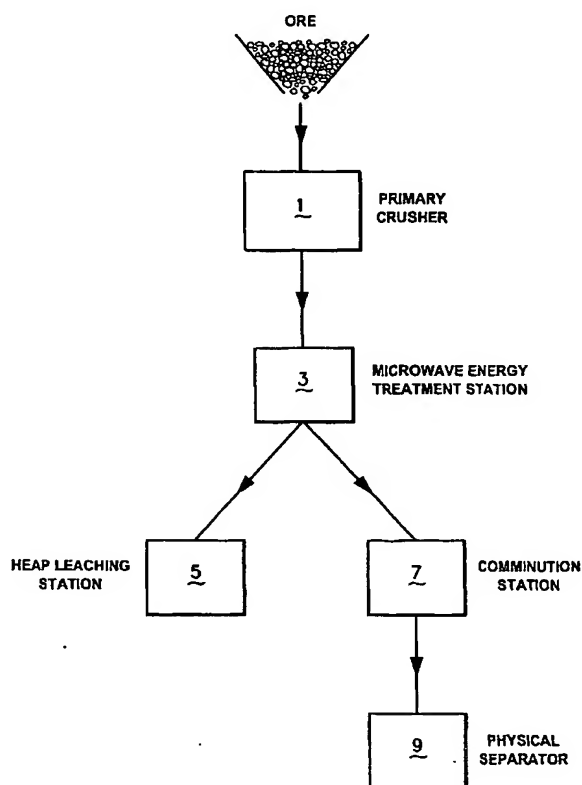
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES PTY LTD** [AU/AU]; 55 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BATTHERHAM, Robin, John** [AU/AU]; 153 Park Drive, Parkville, Victoria 3052 (AU). **ESDAILE, Lucy** [AU/AU]; 795 Drummond Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053 (AU). **SHAW, Raymond, Walter** [AU/AU]; 118 Kirribilli Road, New Gisborne, Victoria 3438 (AU). **CROSS, Christopher, Robin** [GB/GB]; 89 Oak Wood Avenue, Cyncoed, Cardiff, South Wales CF23 9EZ (GB).
- (74) Agent: **GRIFFITH HACK**; 509 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004 (AU).
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(54) Title: MICROWAVE TREATMENT OF ORES



(57) Abstract: A method of treating ore particles to facilitate subsequent processing of the ore particles to recover valuable components from the ore is disclosed. The method includes exposing the ore particles to microwave energy and causing structural alteration of the ore particles. In one embodiment structural alteration is achieved without significantly altering the mineralogy, ie composition, of the ore. In another embodiment structural alteration is achieved with minimal change to the sizes of the ore particles. In another embodiment the method includes exposing the ore particles to short duration, high energy pulses of microwave energy.